THE TECH

VOL. XXVI. NO. 34 BOSTON, MASS., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1906 PRICE THREE CENTS

SENIOR CAPS AND GOWNS.

Indorsement by Faculty Only Necessary to Effect Innovation. Portfolio Elections.

If the Faculty sanctions the proposal, the Seniors this year will wear caps and gowns at their graduation exercises. This was decided this week on a vote taken as a rider on the Senior Portfolio ballots, the sentiment of the class being overwhelmingly in favor of the change.

That such an innovation should cause the stir that it has can be better realized when the history of graduation exercises at the Institute is known. In the first ten years of the Institute's life there were no exercises at commencement, the Senior receiving his degree over the desk in the registrar's office in the most matter-of-fact fashion with no formality whatever. The first move toward ceremony was made in 1875, when the degrees were conferred at commencement exercises held in Huntington Hall, at which a number of the graduate students read portions of their theses. From year to year more and more ceremony has been added until now Commencement Week is a round of gaiety.

The question of wearing caps and gowns during this week has been brought up before the Senior classes for the past five years and has been downed each time by a large vote. The opposition during that time has been gradually weakening, due to the constant influx of men from other colleges where the custom prevails. The only time that an action of this kind was taken by the graduating class at the Institute was one year when it was voted that the Seniors wear tall hats. This, however, was not carried out, as a large number of men refused to abide by the vote.

The main reason that the Senior classes never felt kindly toward this custom was that they did not wish to ape other Universities. The Institute has always stood for originality in all of its student customs and to take up this custom would be copying from other schools The contention of those in favor of the custom has been the democracy of the dress, the cap and gown placing one man on equal footing with another in the uniformity of costume.

How this decision will be treated by the Faculty is not yet known. Some were interviewed and seemed to be in favor of it. If the Faculty should decide to accept the vote of the Senior class which is very probable, many of that body who are doctors will come to the exercises gowned in their doctor's robes. The majority of these received their doctor's degree in Europe where these robes are the most gorgeous affairs.

The Senior Portfolio elections resulted in the choice of the following committee:

John Frank, Hudson B. Hastings, Donald G. Robbins, Phelps N. Swett, Harold S. Wonson. There will be a meeting of this committee on Friday at 1 o'clock in Rogers Library.

Purdue has planned to have erected a chemical laboratory that will accommodate 2,000 students.

"RISING IN THE WORLD."

Selection from Book by O. S. Marden, Editor of "Success," Read by Prof. Swain.

Professor Swain read on Monday afternoon from "Rising in the World or, Architects of Fate," by O. S. Marden, editor of "Success." The book is one of a series designed to inspire youth to character building, self-culture and noble achievement, and contains many helpful anecdotes and quotations from successful men.

Professor Swain confined his reading to the chapter entitled "Uses of Obstacles," the keynote of which lies in the quotation, "Adversity is the prosperity of the great." Not ease, but effort, not facility, but difficulty, makes men. It is not the victories but the failures of a man's life which bring him success in the end. Thousands of men of great native ability have been lost to the world because they have not had to wrestle with obstacles, and to struggle under difficulties sufficient to stimulate into activity their dormant powers. No effort is too dear which helps us along the line of our proper career.

Mr. Marden, in referring to the conditions of the present day, which tend to hurt a man by removing these obstacles, says:

"This is the crutch age. 'Helps' and 'aids' are advertised everywhere. We have institutes, colleges, universities, teachers, books, libraries, newspapers, magazines. Our thinking is done for us, our problems are all worked out in 'explanations' and 'keys.' Our boys are too often tutored through college with very little study. 'Short roads' and 'abridged methods' are characteristic of the century. Ingenious methods are used everywhere to get the drudgery out of the college course. Newspapers give us our politics, and preachers our religion. Self-help and self-reliance are getting old fashioned. Nature, as if conscious of delayed blessings, has rushed to man's relief with her wondrous forces, and undertakes to do the world's drudgery and emancipate him from Eden's curse."

MEETING OF ADVISORY COUNCIL.

The Class of '81 presented last week to the Technology Club, and to the Tech Union, a framed photograph of the gate at Technology Field, 18 by 22 inches.

At a meeting of the Advisory Council last Friday night, the Hockey Team was granted the right to use the insignia HTT in games which it has this year, it being understood that the use of this insignia is not permanent, but only to be used in games. It was also granted the right to arrange a game with West Point if possible.

Messrs. M. Udale, '07, and H. H. Howland, '08, were awarded "T's," having finished among the first seven in the Harvard-Technology Cross Country Run, November 19.

The manager of the Track Team was given authority to arrange an indoor meet with Holy Cross early in March, and a meet with Brown at Boston on May 4.

HOCKEY PLANS.

Advisory Council Authorizes an Institute Hockey Team.

Last Friday night the Advisory Council decided to forego its decision of last year, abolishing hockey at the Institute, but it refused to go so far as to contribute towards the expenses of a team. The members of last year's team, however, voted to continue the sport even if they had to pay their own expenses.

Captain Gould and Manager Kelly have been working hard to form plans for the season, but as yet things are very unsettled both in regard to games and the members of the new team. A challenge from West Point to play on February second has been accepted, and a number of other games are being arranged. The team should have excellent chances in this game for it will have the mid-year vacation during which to get in form.

The prospects for a good team this year are unusually bright so far as material goes, for only one man of all the old players has left the Institute, and there are several good men in the freshman class. The chief difficulty to be encountered will be the lack of a rink for practice, for the management will be unable to secure one on account of the lack of funds. Captain Gould says that they expect to use the various public skating ponds about town unless the Advisory Council changes its decision.

NO FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE MEET.

The last hopes of those who wished to see a Freshman-Sophomore meet this year were dashed to the ground when the Advisory Council decided at its last meeting not to hold one. It was originally intended by Manager Tobin to hold this meet early in the season, and it would probably have been run off by this time had not Mr. Mahan gone to Princeton with the Cross Country Team. Mr. Mahan's absence made it impossible for Tobin to go ahead with the meeting until recently, when the question came up before the Advisory Council. The time between now and the holidays does not permit it being run off before Christmas, and the regular interclass meet will be held on January 8. Another objection that was raised to getting the meet off before Christmas was that it would open the indoor track season too early. The track team this year already has a long and hard schedule, and so it was not deemed advisable to start them off too soon.

NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE PRIZE

The National Municipal League has established an annual prize of one hundred dollars, to be called the "William H. Baldwin Prize," to be given to the author of the best essay on a subject connected with municipal government. For the year 1906-1907 the competition will be limited to undergraduate students registered in a regular course in any college or university of the United States offering distinct instruction in municipal government, and the topic will be: "The Relation of the Municipality to the Water Supply."

CALENDAR.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12.

6.00 P.M. Chicago Club Banquet at the Tech Union.

4.00 P.M. Special Rehearsal Mandolin Club, 31 Rogers.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10.

1.00 P.M. Musical Clubs Meeting in 26 Rogers.

1.00 P.M. Institute Committee Meeting in Trophy Room.

1.30 P.M. Weekly Y. M. C. A. Meeting in Parish Hall.

4.00 P.M. Banjo Club Rehearsal in 33 Rogers.

4.00 P.M. Orchestra Rehearsal at the Tech Union.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14.

1.00 P.M. Senior Portfolio Committee Meeting in Rogers Library.

4.00 P.M. Mandolin Club Rehearsal in 31 Rogers.

4.15 P.M. Glee Club Rehearsal at the Tech Union.

FACULTY NOTICES.

Third Year, Course X. — Machine drawings of last year are ready for return in the office of 30 Eng. A.

Machine Drawing, Third Year, Course VI.— Meet on Wednesday, 2 to 4, in place of Tuesdays, 2 to 4, for the rest of the term.

Dynamics of Machines. — An examination will be held in Dynamics of Machines on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 15, at 2 o'clock, in 20 Eng. A.

Copies of Professor Derr's New Book.— Copies of Professor Derr's New book "Photography for Students of Physics and Chemistry" may be obtained at Maclachlan's.

NOTICES.

Round Table.— Meeting today at 1.00 P.M. in 22 Rogers.

Mining Eng. Society.— Mining Engineering Society Meeting, December 17, at 4.30 P.M. in 2 Rogers.

Institute Committee Meeting.—There will be a meeting of the Institute Committee tomorrow at 1 o'clock in the Trophy Room.

Chicago Club.—First dinner of the year tonight at the Tech Union. All residents of Chicago or vicinity are expected to attend.

Mandolin Club.— There will be a special rehearsal of the Mandolin Club in 31 Rogers Wednesday at 4 P.M. Every man who expects to play in the Winter Concert must be present.

Musical Clubs.—A regular meeting of the Technology Glee, Mandolin, and Banjo Clubs will be held in 26 Rogers Thursday at 1 P.M. Important business is to be transacted and every member should make it a point to be present.

Society of Arts.— The 628th meeting of the Society will be held in 22 Walker tomorrow at 8 P.M. Mr. Alex. E. Brown, of the Brown Hoisting Machinery Company, Cleveland, Ohio, will address the Society on "Applications of Hoisting Machinery to Shipbuilding Purposes." The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides. All interested in the subject are invited to attend.

THE TECH

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In charge of this issue: A. K. MITCHELL, 1909

Wednesday, December 12, 1906.

THE TECH wishes to announce the appointment of Mr. H. I. Pearl, '10, to the News Staff.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Editors do not hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH:

I have through some five years so heartily enjoyed the spirit of relaxation and good fun mutually appreciated by the fellows assembled before convocation and the teachers who also attended, that I should like to raise a question, suggested by the last convocation: How far may we reasonably go in our hilarity? It seems to me there are extremes which we should all willingly recognize and avoid. Toward three such sorts of excess I think we have come dangerously near; and I should like, through your columns, to ask the fellows to consider whether or not they feel in agreement.

We want, I'm sure, in the matter of noise, "to draw the line somewhere." It seems to me a reasonable line would be confining ourselves to such sounds as human hands and voices will produce—in whatever piquant variety a fellow or group of fellows may devise. The introduction of horns or conches only provokes, of course, the next man to "go one better," and it is hard to see where we shall stop, short of steam sirens or blank cartridges.

I feel, also, that it is really discourteous and inconsiderate to greet every lady who enters, with a yell—intentionally, perhaps, of approval, but, in sound, infuriated to a frenzy that would make Apaches blush. Girl students may understand the convention; but other women guests not so familiar with a queer habit, find such applause extremely disconcerting and even annoying.

Finally, should we not refrain from throwing objects about the room? A light card scaled some distance through the air may, in its wholly unmanageable course, do real damage; and a card even slightly heavy might put out a fellow's eye.

To sacrifice the genuine humor of much of the convocation demonstrations would be a distinct loss to the pleasant informality of Tech life—something, I think, too well worth while to pervert into mere "rough-house."

Sincerely,
H. L. SEAVER.

The Institute Committee, being the official undergraduate governing body, and agreeing heartily with the above communication, has passed the following resolutions:

WHEREAS: At the last convocation there were many evidences of ungentlemanliness such as the use of horns and bells, the throwing of missils, hissing, and undue demonstrations at the appearance of ladies at the door,

RESOLVED: That hereafter all demonstrations shall be made only by the use of the hands or mouth, eliminating the use of all horns, bells, whistles, etc.

That the throwing of any kind of objects or missils be strictly prohibited.

That hissing be prohibited.

That ladies be treated with the respect due them.

That the members of the Institute Committee be marshals to enforce the above regulations at any and all convocations.

For the Institute Committee,
LAWRENCE ALLEN.
B. E. HUTCHINSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TECH:

The writer of the Communication concerning the "mystery" (?) of the manager of the Fencing Team has tried to make a tempest in a tea-pot. Perhaps he does not know that the by-laws of the M. I. T. A. A. provide that members of different sports shall nominate their respective managers, and their appointment is subject to the approval of the M. I. T. A. A., and

(Continued on Page 3.)

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(Continued from Page 2.)

also of the Advisory Council on Athletics.

He assumes too much when he states that "we know for a fact that there is a manager," for as a matter of fact there is none. The captain of the team meant only that one had been nominated, or elected by the fencers. This man accepted the position temporarily much against his inclination, as he was carrying a great deal of scholastic work. However he agreed to assume the duties for the time being to see whether or not he could do justice to the position. Later on finding that he could not, he tendered his resignation, leaving the office vacant, and this condition still exists. Hence his name was not brought up before the M. I. T. A. A., and the Advisory Council on Athletics for approval.

As the man who made these inquiries concerning the manager was a reporter for a newspaper, the captain did not believe it expedient to tell who the manager was at that time.

As to the straightforwardness of this manager's nomination we believe the Fencing Team itself fully capable of electing its own manager without any outside aid, which, we beg to inform your correspondent, is in full accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Advisory Council on Athletics.

A FENCER.

HOLLIS STREET THEATRE

Viola Allen's coming engagement, opening next Monday, promises to be the most notable Shakesperian event of the year. It has been a long time since "Cymbeline" has been acted upon the local stage, and the appearance of Miss Allen, ably supported, and in a play staged as beautifully as "Winter's Tale" or "Twelfth Night," promises to attract much attention.

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ASST. TRACK MANAGER ELECTION.

It has been decided this year not to wait until the end of the year for the election of the Assistant Track Manager. In the past the election of this very important official has been delayed until along toward the last of the second term. This is particularly undesirable, as the Assistant is almost invariably the Track Manager the following year, and ought to be getting all the experience possible the year before. It is for this reason that the election will be held at the end of this term instead of at the end of next.

There will be a meeting of the M. I. T. A. A. on Friday, December 22, at 1 P.M. in Huntington Hall, when the Assistant Track Manager will be elected. Three men have been trying for this position so far. They are Keeney, Lawrence and Sharp. Track Manager Tobin said that so far no one had shown any marked superiority over the others, and that so far as he can see he will not be able to make any recommendations to the members of the association but would have to leave it to them as to which man they want to represent Tech in track next year.

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COLONIAL THEATRE

Elsie Janis will take her leave of Boston with the coming week of her engagement at the Colonial Theatre. The great run of "The Vanderbilt Cup" in New York, has been duplicated here, and every automobile enthusiast has been to see the sparkling musical comedy. This production has the unique novelty of being the first to contain a motor car race upon the stage. The brilliant imitations of stage celebrities by Miss Janis are wonderful for their accuracy and artistic merit.

PARK THEATRE

Clara Bloodgood in Clyde Fitch's new play "The Truth." has scored as great a success as she did in her last play, "The Girl with the Green Eyes." The Park Theatre has been filled night after night by audiences eagerly appreciative of Miss Bloodgood's brilliancy, which is the same which she has shown on previous visits to this city. The engagement will be followed by a long one in New York.

READING NOTICE.

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COLONIAL.—"The Vanderbilt Cup."
CASTLE SQUARE.—"Cousin Kate."
GLOBE.—"Old Lavender."
HOLLIS.—"Peter Pan."
MAJESTIC.—"The Shulamite."
PARK.—"The Truth."
TREMONT.—"The College Widow."

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